

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:



## Core Knowledge

### What was life like in Victorian London?

- There was a drastic difference in the quality of life for the rich and poor. This led to **social inequality**.
- Poor Victorians lived in extreme **poverty**.
- The population grew rapidly which led to overcrowding. This, and the severe increase in crime, led to the introduction of the Metropolitan Police force.
- The city was polluted and unhygienic. This led to the spread of a disease called cholera. No one knew how this spread until scientist John Snow investigated this. This shows how different methods were used to investigate the cause of diseases.

### Who is Arthur Conan Doyle?

- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle came from an **affluent** family.
- Before becoming a professional writer, he was a doctor in the army.
- At university, Conan Doyle had a university professor who was able to deduce facts about people just by looking at them.



### How are stories structured?

- Stories **establish** important details in the **exposition**, then build **tension** through a series of **shifts** before a **climax**.



### Who are Sherlock Holmes and Doctor John Watson?

- The character of Doctor John Watson was **influenced** by Conan Doyle's own experiences as a doctor in the army.
- The character of Sherlock Holmes was influenced by Conan Doyle's university professor.
- The **narrator** of the Sherlock Holmes stories is Doctor Watson; they are told from his **perspective**.



### How was Christmas time celebrated in the Victorian era?

- At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Christmas was hardly celebrated. Many businesses did not consider it a holiday. By the end of the century it had become the biggest annual celebration and took on the form we recognise today.
- The industrial revolution of the Victorian era changed the way people celebrate Christmas forever. This allowed the mass manufacture of things like toys and cards, which became much more available to people of all classes.
- Charles Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' in 1843, which encouraged rich Victorians to share their wealth by giving money and gifts to the poor. His novel is credited with helping to spread the traditions of the festival. Its themes of family, charity, goodwill, peace and happiness capture the spirit of the Victorian Christmas, and are very much a part of the Christmas we celebrate today.



## Plot

### A Scandal in Bohemia

The King of Bohemia plans to marry a Norwegian princess. However, he previously had a relationship with a woman called Irene Adler. Adler is threatening to ruin his engagement with a picture she has of herself and the king together, which would cause a scandal. Holmes tricks Adler into revealing where she keeps the photograph, but she outsmarts Holmes and escapes with it. Adler decides not to use the picture against the king. She leaves a picture of herself in its place, which Holmes keeps as a reminder of her.

### The Red-Headed League

Jabez Wilson gets a job with the mysterious 'Red-Headed League' because of his 'flame' coloured hair. One day, he is mysteriously told that he is no longer needed by the league so visits Holmes to ask him to investigate. Holmes discovers that his story reveals a plot to steal from a bank vault which is successfully prevented.

### The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A policeman named Peterson is left with a man's hat and Christmas goose. He takes the goose home to eat and discovers a blue carbuncle (a rare, and very valuable jewel) inside the goose. Holmes recognises the jewel as the one that was stolen from The Countess of Morcar. Using the hat as a clue, Holmes and Watson set off to discover how the blue carbuncle was stolen and how it ended up in a goose.

## Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Image
<b>characterisation</b>	What a writer makes a character like (as a fictional 'person').	
<b>climax</b>	The point that a story's tension builds up to	
<b>compassionate</b>	Describes someone who shows pity and concern about the suffering or bad luck of other people.	
<b>contempt</b>	A feeling that a person or thing is worthless or beneath you.	
<b>establish</b>	To set up an idea.	

<b>exposition</b>	Key background information in a story, usually at the beginning.	
<b>facetious</b>	Describes someone who treats serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour.	
<b>hubris</b>	Too much pride or self-confidence.	
<b>ignorance</b>	A lack of knowledge, awareness or education.	
<b>inferior</b>	Not as good or as important as something or someone else.	
<b>justified</b>	Having or done for good reason.	
<b>manipulate</b>	To control or influence someone or something unfairly.	
<b>narrator</b>	The person who tells the story.	
<b>patriarchy</b>	A society where men hold the power and women are usually excluded or oppressed.	
<b>perspective</b>	How someone sees something; their point of view.	
<b>protagonist</b>	The main character. They often have heroic characteristics.	
<b>shift</b>	An important change or development in a story.	
<b>structure</b>	The order of events in a story.	
<b>superior</b>	Better or more important than something or someone else.	

### The three parts of a metaphor

<b>tenor</b>	The thing being described.
<b>vehicle</b>	The imaginative, non-literal part of the metaphor (what the tenor is compared to).
<b>ground</b>	The things the tenor and vehicle have in common.